

Planning for the advent of large resorts: Current capacities of interior British Columbian mountain communities

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Abstract

British Columbia mountain communities are increasingly the subject of attention from developers and political leaders who want to build downhill ski, snowmobile, and second home resorts. Academic research, other literature, and common experience all suggest that resort developments pose serious challenges for small communities. Do small communities have the capacity to meet these challenges through planning? This article reports the results of a rapid reconnaissance of the knowledge, powers, and resources of planners and administrators employed on behalf of interior mountain municipalities in British Columbia, Canada, as they plan for the advent of large resorts. It also reviews the state of municipal preparedness to act and the context of conflicting public interests constraining what municipalities can do.

Les collectivites de montagne de la Colombie-Britannique attirent de plus en plus l'attention des promoteurs immobiliers et des politiciens qui desirent construire des centres de ski alpin, de moto-neige et de villegiature. La recherche academique, la litterature et l'experience quotidienne donnent a penser que les projets de construction de villegiature presentent des problemes serieux pour les petites collectivites. Celles-ci ont-elles suffisamment de ressources pour faire face a ces defis? Dans cet article, l'auteur presente les resultats d'une enquete preliminaire sur les municipalites de montagne de l'arriere-pays de la Colombie-Britannique, au Canada, et sur leur capacite a planifier l'arrivee des centres de villegiature de taille importante.

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